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NOTICES FROM THE LICK OBSERVATORY.*

PREPARED BY MEMBERS OF THE STAFF.

It has seemed appropriate to supplement the account of the life-work of Professor KEELER, which Professor CAMPBELL has written for the Society, with a more extended account of the scientific investigations which claimed his attention during the two years of his Directorship of the Lick Observatory, especially as we have such an account from his own pen—the last article written by him. We therefore reprint in this number the article on “The Crossley Reflector of the Lick Observatory,” which Professor KEELER contributed to the June (1900) number of the *Astrophysical Journal*.

VENUS BY DAYLIGHT.

In his notes on Planetary Phenomena in No. 73 of these *Publications*, Professor MCNEILL called attention to the fact that *Venus* could readily be seen in full daylight in clear weather throughout the month of May of this year. It may be of interest to note that the planet was seen here without difficulty whenever it was looked for by daylight in the months of March, April, and June, as well as May.

Venus came to inferior conjunction with the Sun on July 7th, and I was interested to see how near this date it could be seen by daylight without telescopic aid. On June 29th, at 3 P. M., I found it clearly visible to the naked eye without the aid of a “pointer.” On July 2d, at 12:30 P. M., it was seen with the greatest difficulty, and only by using the telescope tube as a “pointer.” On July 5th, at 10:30 A. M., the 12-inch telescope was turned on the planet, the object-glass being screened as far as possible from direct sunlight. *Venus* appeared as an exceedingly narrow crescent that could be traced through fully 180° . At its widest part, the width of the crescent was estimated at less

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than one second of arc. After passing the Sun, the planet was not looked for by daylight until August 22d, at 10 A.M., when it was, of course, very easily seen. R. G. AITKEN.

DISCOVERY OF THREE HUNDRED DOUBLE STARS.

During the years 1898-99, I was engaged in remeasuring all the double stars discovered at Pulkowa, principally from 1841 to 1843, by OTTO STRUVE. In the course of this work I discovered new companions to a few of these stars. I also frequently measured other pairs which happened to be in the vicinity of those found by OTTO STRUVE, and some of these miscellaneous pairs have proved to be new.

When the work on the Pulkowa stars drew towards a close, so that considerable gaps existed in my programme, I began to examine large numbers of stars in various parts of the sky, particularly towards the south, in the hope of discovering new pairs. This work has now been carried on systematically for about fourteen months, resulting in the discovery of three hundred new double stars, having distances under five seconds of arc.

Sets of measures of these stars have been obtained as speedily as circumstances have permitted. Observations of one hundred pairs were printed in the *Astronomical Journal*, No. 480, and observations of a second hundred have been forwarded to the same periodical for publication. Sets of measures of the third hundred have not yet been completed, though most of them have been observed on at least one night.

With respect to the distances between their components, these new pairs have the following classification:

0".25 or less,	18 pairs.
0.26 to 0".50,	41 "
0.51 to 1.00,	63 "
1.01 to 2.00,	80 "
2.01 to 5.00,	98 "
	<hr/> 300

Many of these stars are difficult to measure, either on account of the closeness of their components or the faintness of their companions. On this account I have generally observed them with the 36-inch telescope. Some of the close pairs, even some of those whose distances do not exceed 0".25, have been discov-